

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

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1. A method for progressively improving a fit of a pool of reusable environments to requirements of programs in a computer system, the method comprising steps of:

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providing a first environment for a first program;

responsive to initiation of a second program, making a determination whether creation of a new environment is a best response;

responsive to a determination that creation of a new environment is a best response, creating a new environment for the second program;

responsive to a determination that creating a new environment is not a best response, testing the pool for a best fit environment; and

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adding elements to the best fit environment to match requirements of the second program, unless the best fit environment already matches the requirements of the second program.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first, new and best fit environments is an execution environment.

5 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the execution environment is preinitialized.

10 4. The method of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first, new and best fit environments is eligible to be deleted.

15 5. The method of claim 4, wherein at least one least recently used of the first, new and best fit environments is eligible to be deleted.

20 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the elements are parameters of at least one of the first, the new and the best fit environments.

25 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the step of responsive to initiation of a second program, making a determination whether creation of a new environment is a best response comprises testing whether the pool has reached a maximum size.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the step of responsive to a determination that the pool has reached its maximum

size, testing the pool for a best fit environment comprises a programmatically alterable test.

5 9. A computer program product, comprising computer program code tangibly embodied in a signal-bearing medium, for, when loaded into a computer system and executed, progressively improving a fit of a pool of reusable environments to requirements of programs in a computer system, by causing the computer system to perform the steps
10 of a method as claimed in claim 1.

10. A computer program product as claimed in claim 9, wherein the signal bearing medium is at least one of a transmissive medium and a storage medium.

11. A computer system for progressively improving a fit of a pool of reusable environments to requirements of programs in a computer system, the computer system comprising:

20 means for providing a first environment for a first program;

25 means responsive to initiation of a second program, for making a determination whether creation of a new environment is a best response;

means responsive to a determination that creation of a new environment is a best response, for creating a new environment for the second program;

5 means responsive to a determination that creating a new environment is not a best response, for testing the pool for a best fit environment; and

10 means for adding elements to the best fit environment to match requirements of the second program, unless the best fit environment already matches the requirements of the second program.

12. The computer system of claim 11, wherein at least one of the first, new and best fit environments is an execution environment.

13. The computer system of claim 12, wherein the execution environment is preinitialized.

14. The computer system of claim 11, wherein at least one of the first, new and best fit environments is eligible to be deleted.

25 15. The computer system of claim 14, wherein at least one least recently used of the first, new and best fit environments is eligible to be deleted.

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16. The computer system of claim 11, wherein the elements are parameters of at least one of the first, the new and the best fit environments.

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17. The computer system of claim 11, wherein the means responsive to initiation of a second program, for making a determination whether creation of a new environment is a best response comprises means for testing whether the pool has reached a maximum size.

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18. The computer system of claim 17, wherein the means, responsive to a determination that the pool has reached its maximum size, for testing the pool for a best fit environment comprises means for performing a programmatically alterable test.

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